CLAIMS

1. A blast key which includes a body and a blast energy generator in or on the body.

2. A blast key according to claim 1 which includes a switch which controls operation of the blast energy generator.

3. A blast key according to claim 2 wherein the switch is selected from a manual switch, an electronic switch and an electromechanical switch.

4. A blast key according to claim 2 or 3 which includes a control logic unit for controlling operation of the switch.

5. A blast key according to claim 4 wherein the control logic unit is responsive to at least one external control device.

6. A blast key according to claim 5 wherein the external control device is selected from manually operable input devices and communication links which are connected to the control logic unit.

7. A blast key according to claim 6 wherein the manually operable input devices are mounted to the body.

8. A blast key according to claim 1 wherein the body is a housing and the blast energy generator is mounted in the housing.

9. A blast key according to claim 1 which includes a plurality of terminals mounted to the body to enable the blast energy generator to be connected to a blast control unit.

10. A blast key according to claim 1 which includes an energy source for actuating the blast energy generator, in a controlled manner.

11. A blasting arrangement which includes a plurality of detonators, a blast control unit, and a blast key which is removably connected, directly or indirectly, to the detonators and the blast control unit, and wherein the blast key includes a blast energy generator which provides electrical energy at a predetermined voltage for arming the detonators.

12. A blast arrangement according to claim 11 wherein electrical energy which is provided by the blast energy generator is derived from an energy source which is selected from an energy source which is included in the blast key and an energy source which is under the control of the blast control unit.